

Email From: James A. Riddle

Subject: Comments on proposed rule docket # TM-03-02

Dear Mr. Clayton and NOP staff:

It has come to my attention that a new proposed rule, docket # TM-03-02, was posted in the Federal Register on Thursday, May 22, 2003. According to the notice, comments must be received by June 2, 2003.

In looking at my calendar, it appears that the notice only gives 6 working dates for comments, not counting weekends and the Memorial Day holiday. I further note that, as of 12:30 pm EDT, there has been no notice of the proposed rule posted on the NOP website under "Today's News".

During last week's National Organic Standards Board meeting, numerous commenters requested that Federal Register notices provide a minimum of 30 days for public comment.

While I understand and support the Department's intent to place materials recommended by the NOSB on the National List in a timely manner, I find that extending the comment period from 10 days (or 6 days) to 30 days will not present a significant delay. It will provide affected stakeholders more time to respond, and likely lead to better understanding of and support for the final rule changes.

I hereby formally request that the comment period be extended to provide a minimum of 30 days for public comment on this and all future proposed rule notices.

Respectfully,

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